I WANT MY MANGA NOW——
BAM!
Waaaa

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A Prayer for the Lord
Until You Fall Asleep
A short story for the heart
EXCUSE ME... YOU'RE LAURA RIGHT?
Ii-Hyun Yoon

I'M IRENE. YOUR NAME IS LAURA, RIGHT? DADDY TOLD ME.
HE SAID WE'RE GONNA BE A FAMILY FROM NOW ON.
WHO SAID SO?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY. DON'T FOLLOW ME
UH? UM...WELL... MOMMY SAID...
MY NEW OLDER SISTER WAS AS COLD AS ICE.

HER EYES THAT STARED AT ME WERE COLD.
BUT I LIKED HER THE MOMENT I SAW HER.
ARE YOU COMFORT-ABLE?
YES. EVERYONE'S GOOD TO ME, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH LAURA YET.
I'M SORRY ABOUT LAURA.
SHE'S A RETICENT ONE AND SHE REALLY LOVED HER MOTHER.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME FOR HER TO WARM UP TO YOU.
OKAY.

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LAURA ALWAYS MOVES ABOUT VERY SECRETLY

TO THE POINT THAT NO ONE KNOWS WHERE SHE GOES OR WHEN SHE COMES BACK HOME

BUT I KNOW

THAT SHE HAS A SECRET GARDEN PAST THOSE BUSHES

I TOLD YOU TO STOP, SO WHY DO YOU KEEP FOLLOWING ME?

I'VE BEEN CAUGHT

GYAH!

LAURA, CAN'T I PLAY WITH YOU TOO? I WOULD LIKE TO PLAY WITH THE DOLL YOU'RE HOLDING TOO.
NO. EVERYTHING HERE IS MY MOTHER'S MEMENTO. DON'T TOUCH THEM.
DO YOU NOT LIKE ME? BUT I LIKE YOU...
I'M AN ONLY CHILD, SO I REALLY WISHED FOR AN OLDER SISTER.
I HATE PEOPLE LIKE YOU THE MOST.
PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDLY AND NICE, AND THEN RUIN EVERYTHING.
LIKE YOUR MOM.

WHY MY MOM? DON'T TALK BADLY ABOUT MY MOM!
YOU DON'T KNOW? HOW MY DAD AND YOUR MOM MET...
WHEN MY MOM WAS DYING, YOUR MOM WHO WAS THE NURSE DIDN'T DO HER JOB AND SEDUCED MY DAD INSTEAD.
THEN, AS SOON AS MY MOM PASSED AWAY, SHE MARRIED HIM AS IF SHE WAS WAITING ALL ALONE.
ISN'T THIS REASON ENOUGH TO DISLIKE YOU?
I CAN'T ACCEPT YOU, YOUR MOM, OR MY DAD.
SO DON'T BOTHER ME AND LEAVE ME ALONE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY
...I'M SORRY...
MAYBE I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE PAIN OF YOUR WOUNDS...
WHAT ARE YOU SORRY FOR? THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO...
BUT IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES, I WOULD'VE HATED EVERYONE TOO
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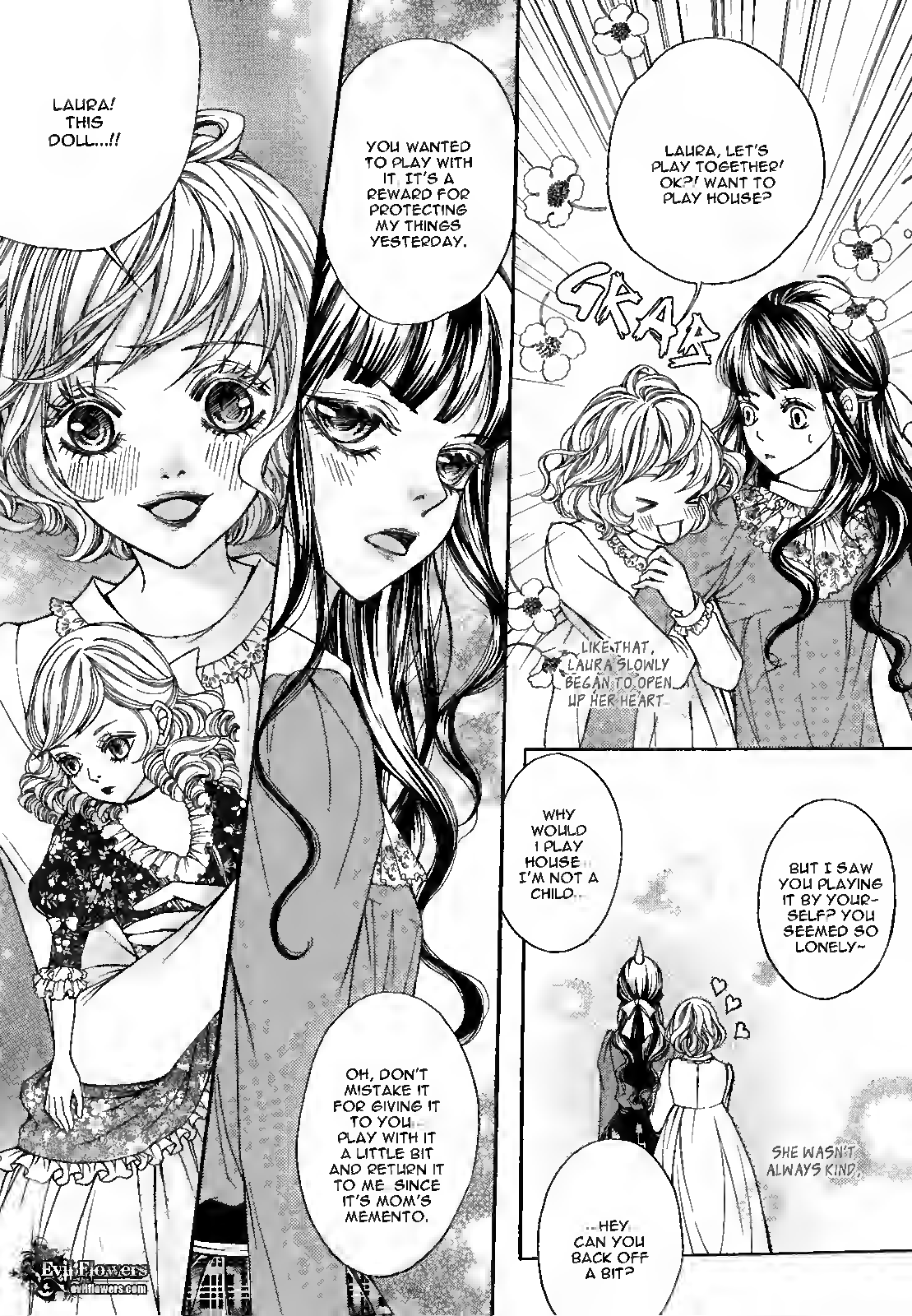
PLOP PLOP...
MY, IT'S RAINING AGAIN? MISS IRENE, PLEASE WEAR THIS. OR ELSE YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.

GEEZ, WHY IS IT RAINING SO HEAVILY? IS THERE A HOLE IN THE SKY?
OH NO... LAURA'S THINGS...
MISS IRENE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GLAD THEY AREN'T SOAKED
SINCE LAURA REALLY TREASURES THEM

HUH?
WOW...
LAURA!!!
LAURA!!!


LAURA, LET'S PLAY TOGETHER! OK?! I WANT TO PLAY HOUSE?
GRAB
LIKE THAT, LAURA SLOWLY BEGAN TO OPEN UP HER HEART
BUT I SAW YOU PLAYING IT BY YOURSELF? YOU SEEMED SO LONELY~
WHY WOULD I PLAY HOUSE I'M NOT A CHILD..
SHE WASN'T ALWAYS KIND,
...HEY CAN YOU BACK OFF A BIT?
YOU WANTED TO PLAY WITH IT. IT'S A REWARD FOR PROTECTING MY THINGS YESTERDAY.
LAURA! THIS DOLL...!!
OH, DON'T MISTAKE IT FOR GIVING IT TO YOU. PLAY WITH IT A LITTLE BIT AND RETURN IT TO ME. SINCE IT'S MOM'S MEMENTO.
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IRENE, CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?
BUT AS WE SHARED SMALL SECRETS TOGETHER, WE GREW TO KNOW EACH
I REALLY LIKED HER.
YEAH! WHAT IS IT, WHAT IS IT? I WON'T TELL ANYONE!
EVEN TO YOUR MOM?
OF COURSE! THIS IS OUR SECRET!
WOW... WHAT'S THAT? IT'S SO PRETTY!!
THIS IS MAGIC POWDER.

MY GRAND-MOTHER GAVE IT TO ME. IT'S MADE BY FAIRIES. MY GRANDMA WAS A WITCH.
WOW! HOW COOL!
SHE SAID THIS POWDER BRINGS LUCK.
REALLY?!
BUT... IT MUST'VE BEEN ALL LIES.
?
WHEN MOM WAS SICK, I PUT THIS IN HER MILK EVERY DAY BUT...
IN THE END...
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MAGIC POWDER...

HMM... MAYBE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T PRAY?
PRAY?
THE PASTOR SAID IF YOU PRAY TO THE LORD REALLY HARD, HE'LL DEFINITELY GRANT YOU WHAT YOU WANT.
SO IF I PRAY REALLY HARD FROM NOW ON, WILL MY MOM COME BACK TO LIFE?
PSHH. OF COURSE NOT. HE SAID ONLY JESUS CAN RESURRECT.
BUT IF YOU GET SICK, I'LL DEFINITELY PRAY FOR YOU.
SO IF I GET SICK, PRAY FOR ME TOO!
OH, IT'S RAINING AGAIN! LET'S GO HOME!

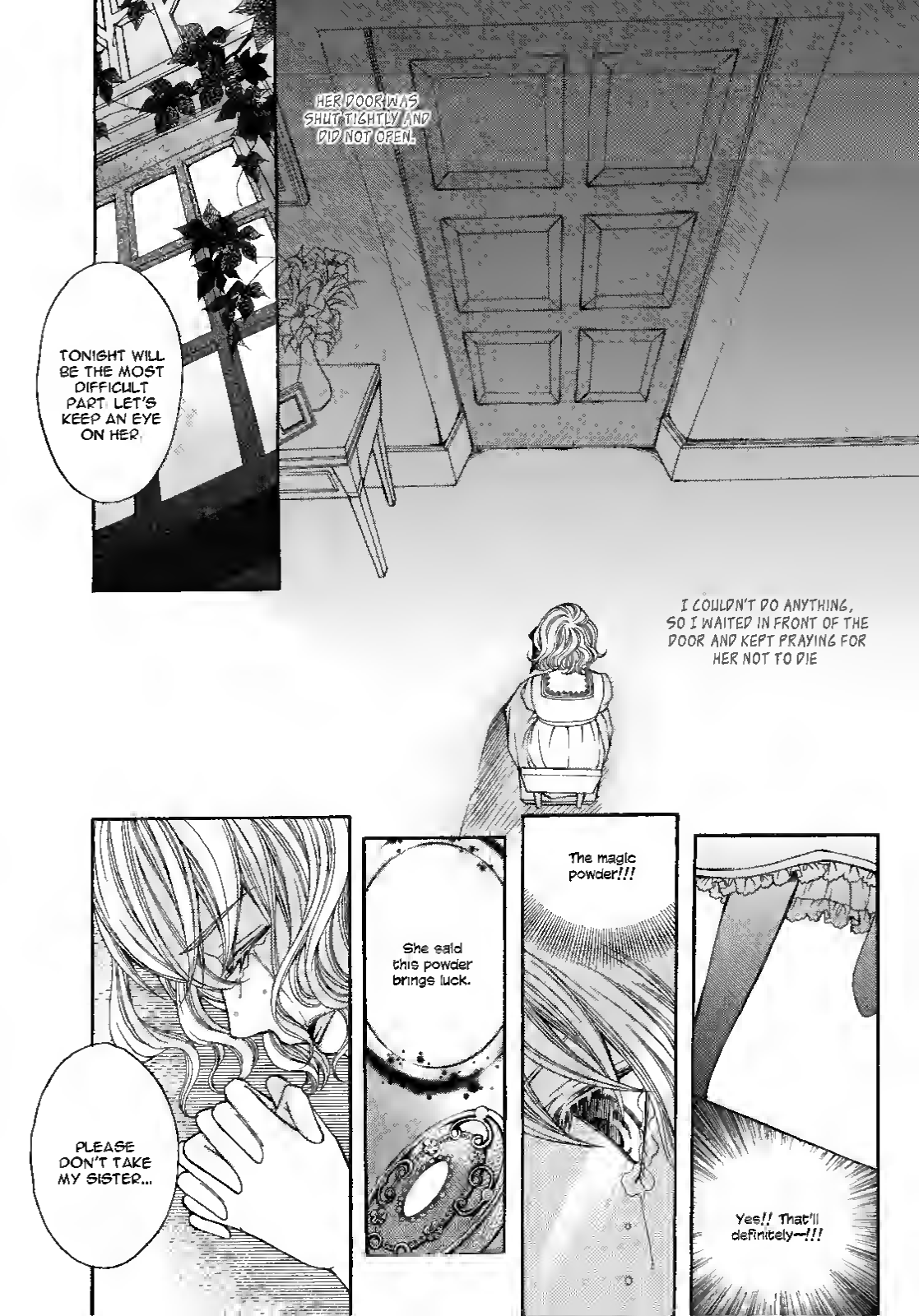
THAT AUTUMN UNUSUALLY RAINED A LOT.
LAURA, HURRY!
BECAUSE I LOVED SEEING HER FAINT SMILE IN THE RAIN.
I KEPT LOOKING BACK
YOU'RE SLOW AT RUNNING TOO~

GOODNESS, CHILDREN! YOU'RE SOAKED AGAIN!
LET'S GET CHANGED QUICKLY. YOU'LL CATCH A COL—
SLAP
WHY... THAT GIRL...
PLEASE DON'T, HONEY. IT'S STILL HARD FOR HER TO ACCEPT ME.

I'M JUST GLAD THAT SHE'S FRIENDS WITH IRENE.
SO JUST LEAVE HER.
ARE YOU SLEEPING?
WHY? DID YOU HAVE A NIGHT-MARE?
I WANT TO SLEEP HERE TODAY. I'M SCARED.
SCAREDY-CAT.

THAT NIGHT I JUST FELT THAT I SHOULDN'T LEAVE HER ALONE.
SING TO ME UNTIL I FALL ASLEEP.
SLEEP WHILE I'M STILL TELLING YOU NICELY.
YOU'RE REALLY NOT GOING TO SING?
SHUT UP.
I WON'T LET YOU SLEEP IF YOU DON'T SING!!
OKAY OKAY, I WILL!
HER BODY IS BURNING UP, MA'AM
THIS IS TERRIBLE! THAT'S WHY I KEPT TELLING HER TO STAY OUT OF THE RAIN!!

I THINK IT'S SCARLET FEVER
I'VE SEEN MY YOUNGER SIBLINGS WITH IT VERY OFTEN. SHE HAS THE SAME SYMPTOMS.
SCARLET FEVER?! THEN...THEN WHAT DO WE DO?
OH NO!!! IS SHE VERY SICK?! SHE WON'T BE BETTER TOMORROW?
MISS IRENE, PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM. YOU'LL CATCH IT TOO.
MA'AM, WILL YOU CALL THE DOCTOR?
YES, I WILL! HOW CAN THIS HAPPEN WHILE HE'S WORKING OUT OF TOWN...


HER DOOR WAS SHUT TIGHTLY AND DID NOT OPEN.
TONIGHT WILL BE THE MOST DIFFICULT PART. LET'S KEEP AN EYE ON HER.
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING, SO I WAITED IN FRONT OF THE DOOR AND KEPT PRAYING FOR HER NOT TO DIE
PLEASE DON'T TAKE MY SISTER...
She said this powder brings luck.
The magic powder!!!
Yes!! That'll definitely—!!!

IN THE DEEP, DEEP NIGHT,
WHEN THE EXHAUSTED PEOPLE BEGAN TO FALL ASLEEP ONE BY ONE,

SHAKE
Nods off
LAURA! WAKE UP FOR JUST A SECOND.
I BROUGHT YOU WARM MILK DRINK IT...
YOU HAVE TO GET UP AGAIN! GET BETTER AND LET'S PLAY TOGETHER, OK?
I'LL PRAY. SO THAT YOU'LL BE HEALTHY AGAIN
WHEN LAURA WAS LOST IN A PLACE SHE DIDN'T KNOW...

I PRAYED UNTIL LAURA FELL ASLEEP.
GASP
GASP
COUGH!
KYAHHH!! MISS LAURA!!
EVEN THOUGH I PRAYED AND PRAYED AGAIN...

SLAM!
WHAT WENT WRONG?
!!!
WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO MY EARNEST PRAYERS?
!!!
WHY?
WHY?
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YOU!! WHAT DID YOU FEED HER?!
I...I JUST WARM MILK...AND THE MAGIC POWDER...
OH MY GOD.. THIS IS ARSENIC! WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
AR.. SENIC..?
MAGIC POWDER?
YES, ARSENIC. THAT IS WHY THIS CHILD IS DEAD.
D..EAD?
MY... SISTER?
HOW CAN THIS..

When mom was sick, I put this in her milk every day but...
WHEN I CAME TO MY SENSES, I WAS RUNNING.
WISHING THAT I DIED SOMEWHERE TOO.
LAURA!!

SOB
IN THE GARDEN THAT HAS LOST ITS OWNER...
SOB
I CRIED AND CRIED UNTIL I COULDN'T REMEMBER
HOLDING THE DOLL THAT BECAME LAURA'S MEMENTO
ENDLESSLY RECALLING HER SMILE IN THE RAIN

I'm sorry, Laura... << End